

Application No. 10/016,870
Reply to the Office Action mailed Sept. 21, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented) A gas turbine engine comprising: a hot section including a combustion chamber therein;

an outer casing surrounding said hot section, the outer casing becoming sufficiently hot during operation of said gas turbine engine to pose a fire risk if a flammable fluid were to contact said hot casing,

a flexible fire retarding member superposed directly on an outer surface of at least a portion of the hot casing and being fastened in place thereto, the member having a thickness in a first direction substantially normal to said outer surface, said member comprising intermingled filaments forming a porous flame arresting fibrous matrix having a plurality of layers of said filaments throughout said thickness, the fibrous matrix defining a plurality of interconnected voids between said filaments, the voids being disposed in communication with each other throughout said thickness and having a size smaller than a maximum void size which limits flame propagation through said member.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein the fire retarding member is removable from said hot casing.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said filaments are irregularly intertwined to form said fibrous matrix.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said member is entirely comprised of said flame arresting fibrous matrix.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of insulative thermal blankets disposed adjacent one another around said hot casing, and wherein said fire retarding member is disposed between adjacent sections of said insulative thermal blankets.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, further comprising an insulative thermal blanket disposed around said hot casing, and wherein said fire retarding member is disposed around said insulative thermal blanket.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

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Claim 9 (previously presented) The gas turbine engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said filaments are metal.

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A fire retarding device ~~for in combination with a gas turbine engine, the combination comprising:~~

~~the gas turbine engine having covering an hot engine casing of a machine housed therewithin, the casing which becomesing hot during machine engine use;~~

~~the fire retarding device being disposed directly on comprising:~~ a member adapted to cover at least a portion of an exterior surface of the hot casing, said member comprising a porous flame arresting matrix having a thickness in a first direction substantially normal to the exterior surface of the hot casing, the matrix having filaments defining a plurality of intermingled filament layers throughout said thickness, the matrix defining a plurality of substantially interconnected voids between the filaments and disposed in communication with each other throughout said thickness, said voids having a size smaller than a maximum size predetermined to limit flame propagation of an ignited fluid through said member.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) The ~~fire retarding device combination~~ as defined in claim 12, further comprising at least one insulative thermal blanket.

Claim 15 (~~currently amended~~previously presented) The ~~combination~~fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein the machine is a gas turbine engine and the hot casing is outer engine casing thereof.

Claim 16 (~~currently amended~~original) The ~~combination~~fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said flame arresting matrix has a percent-density of between 10% and 30%.

Claim 17 (~~currently amended~~previously presented) The ~~combination~~fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said voids are a plurality of different sizes, said different sizes all being less than said maximum size.

Claim 18 (~~currently amended~~previously presented) The ~~combination~~fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is un-extendable in a second direction substantially parallel to said exterior surface.

Claim 19 (~~currently amended~~original) The ~~combination~~fire retarding device as defined in claim 12, wherein said member is composed of a metal.